

Press-Herald

GLENN W. PFEIL Publisher
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Torrance, California, Sunday, April 21, 1968

Public Schools Week

Public schools throughout the state will hold open house and other activities the week of April 22 to 26 in observance of "Public Schools Week."

Under sponsorship of the Masonic Lodges, the week is being observed for the 49th year and is designed to bring parents closer to their children's schools.

All persons, not only parents, should have interest in the public schools in their community. Open house at all schools should literally have overflow crowds.

Locally, one of the week's highlights will be an open house at the new Southern California Regional Occupational Center here at 2300 Crenshaw Blvd. The Thursday event will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. at the recently opened facilities.

Parents should become aware of their children's interests and should be familiar with the daily routines around their school. It is more than amazing to think that a parent would have to be told to have interest in his child.

Public Schools Week provides the opportunity to not only see and become familiar with the school, but also allows the parent to attend classes and see the problems faced by the student in everyday situations.

And it gives the adult a chance to visit a school and discover that youth, in general, is a constructive and responsible group.

Opinions of Others

State troopers are referring to highway crashes as 'failures' these days, rather than accidents . . . failure on someone's part to do the proper thing at the proper time. It is just that simple: Failure to observe a safe speed for existing road conditions. Failure to extend common road courtesy to the other driver. Failure to remain sober when driving. Failure to dim headlights for oncoming cars. Failure to follow at a proper distance. Failure to have good tires. Failure to keep the vehicle in good mechanical condition. And so on the failures go and at long last they are being recognized as such, not just accidents.—Rockland (Me.) Courier-Gazette.

When the American Medical Association opposed medicare so vehemently, one of the group's arguments was that the plan represented ultimate government control over the medical profession. Now we read where the Senate has been petitioned to put 'federal ceilings on the fees doctors charge for treating medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.' The AMA fears perhaps are being realized. It may take some time, but the government some day could be telling doctors what they can charge. —Espanola (N.M.) Rio Grande Sun.

We Americans have for so long felt smugly secure in our nation's economic stability that many can't come to grips with the fact that our national financial structure is on shaky ground indeed and other nations have the weapons to pull the rug out from under us completely if they lose confidence in the stability of the dollar. —Lewisville (Tex.) Leader.

The freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights are not a rock to cling to. They are a living landmark, an ally against the stifling forces of repression. Because of this, each succeeding generation has a sacred duty to nurture and extend these freedoms so that they may continue as the core of the American heritage. —Greenwood (Miss.) Commonwealth.

MAILBOX

To the Editor:

Did you know that the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in Chicago is fighting the War on Poverty by hiring leaders of various teenage "gangs" as assistant directors, with the explanation that they will call in their toughs and reform them? This is giving these gang leaders new prestige, increasing their influence, and admitting that crime does pay.

According to columnists Allen and Scott, it is paying off to the tune of a \$927,000 grant to put these people on the federal payroll. They draw from \$5,000 to \$7,000 a year.

S.N.C.C. is subsidized by OEO and in Nashville, they put out booklets telling "how to cripple a city."

This waste of taxpayers' money should be stopped. Write your Congressman about this.

MRS. DOROTHY SWENSON
Torrance

To the Editor:

Mr. Joseph M. Bowman, Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, in the Congressional Record (December 7, 1967) p. H 16461 says:

"The French have an excellent record in regard to their repayment of their World War II and postwar obligations to the United States. France, which received credits totaling ap-

proximately \$2.4 billion during this period, has not only been servicing its regularly scheduled payments but has made payments in advance of due dates of more than \$880 million. These repayments, together with the scheduled payments, have reduced French World War II and postwar obligations to roughly \$300 million."

To find a scapegoat, it is now popular to claim de Gaulle is ruining the dollar, which is not true.

The U.S. Congress bears the responsibility for reducing the U.S. dollar to its present state of weakness by overspending for years. President de Gaulle has been strengthening the French franc, while Britain and the U.S.A.—and others—have been following an inexcusable opposite course.

C. C. MOSELEY

Editor, Press-Herald

I read with great interest the account of the opening, again, of the "Isabel Henderson Library." I have always loved libraries and as "Henderson" is only a few blocks from our home, it has become "our" library.

Now our library is a good library, but is sadly lacking, not books, but a display cabinet. I have waited in vain all these years to see one, but alas none! I'm sure all of us will have fond memories of a childhood

If U.S. Is So Stubborn About Little Points



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Gene's Group Has Glum Task of Refunding \$ \$

With tears in their eyes, the McCarthy people mailed back \$25,000 worth of checks to people who wanted to attend the banquet for Clean Gene at the Hilton during his recent Calif. swing; not enough room at the inn (and will they love him in June as they do in April?). . . . "The African Queen," that great little riverboat featured in the Bogart movie of the same name, is now en route here from Uganda, Africa, having been purchased by San Franciscan Fred Reeve for a piddling \$750. When she's refurbished a few thousand dollars' worth, Fred will tie her up at Fisherman's Wharf as a Damon Runyon Cancer Fundraiser. . . . As for our resident nuts, they would have to be Tony Kent and Ron Bygum, who, dressed in their Brooks Bros. best, stood on a Haight-Ashbury corner, peddling Wall St. Journals, the Daily Commercial News and Kiplinger Newsletters with this explanation: "To the hippies, THESE are underground pa-

pers" (they sold a few at that).

Jim Bryan was at Bush and Grant at 1:05 the other morning when along came a guy with a girl who was wearing naught but a pair of frilly panties, jaunty-jolly as you please. Jim pointed her out to a nearby cop who merely beamed, "She's one

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

block out of my territory—I can't do a thing about it," and I call that an enlightened police attitude. As for Bryan, he should mind his own business.

A newsquib quotes an eminent psychiatrist: "The increasing suicide rate among the young is the result of too much permissiveness among parents and teachers." Another newsquib reports that the suicide rate among doctors, especially psychiatrists, is above the "normal" national rate. Are we being too permissive with our psychiatrists? . . . Another deep thought, this from Henry Bauer: "The trouble with the domino theory is that the Russians play chess and the Chinese mah jong."

Here we are at Calif. State College in Hayward, where Tennis Pro Dennis Van der Meer is conducting a teachers' workshop. "The serve should be a rhythmic swing," he announces, serving a ball straight into the net. "See?" a physical ed teacher says to a friend, "the rhythm system doesn't even work all the time in tennis." . . . If you're still confused as to where the action is, consider the current Sixth Army list of joints that are "Off Limits" to servicemen. One in Los Angeles, two in Oakland—and 24 in San Francisco. . . . High-rise apartments are not only esthetically distaste-

Morning Report:

I don't know how long it will last but right now Czechoslovakia is the place for newspaper action. The censors have been pulled off the job and great stories untold for 20 years are now being printed.

In 1948, Jan Masaryk, son of the founder of the country, was pushed out a three-story window to his death, or may have been first killed and then tossed out. Four years later, Rudolph Slansky, boss of the Communist party, was framed and then hanged. Boobs were put in charge of factories and the economy was bankrupted. Top office-holders robbed the country blind and shacked up in style with good-looking dames.

No wonder the Kremlin is worried sick. The Russian censors have been at work for 50 years. Soviet newsmen must be itching like mad.

Abe Mellinkoff

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Avalanche of New Bills Floods Legislative Halls

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—The California legislature wound up a two-day spree of bill introduction late Tuesday, with about 40 per cent of the bills of the 1968 session tossed into the hopper in the short space of two days.

Under the constitution, there is no limit on how long the lawmakers may remain in session but, by agreement of the two houses, the April 16 deadline was set for bill introduction. After this it will take a two-thirds vote of the membership for a bill to be introduced.

The change in the constitution, which put the legislature on annual, unlimited sessions, had been so designed to eliminate such logjams as hundreds of bills being introduced just under a deadline, as well as to break the terrific pile-up of bills in the closing days of a session. But the change in the constitution apparently has accomplished neither purpose.

The legislature had been in session for more than three months, with about 2,900 bills introduced. In the two days after the Easter recess, April 15-16, apparently another 1,000 bills were introduced.

While some of the late entries were well planned bills

which had taken many weeks of preliminary drafting work, many were "turkeys" that are introduced every year and go nowhere. In the latter category were such measures as the one to split California into two states, to outlaw pay toilets, and the like.

The taxpayers may take some comfort, however, from the fact that few of the bills introduced in the last

Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

minute rush have much chance to gain passage. The actual rules under the constitution make it difficult.

Bills may not be considered in committee until 30 days after their introduction. This means it will be mid-May before the late flood of bills can have their first committee hearing.

Under present planning, the legislature will take a month-long recess for the primary election, running from about May 17 to June 17. This means few of the latest bills introduced will have a chance for their first committee hearing before the primary election recess.

When the lawmakers return on June 17, the immediate problem will be the budget, which must be enacted by June 30 in order to keep the wheels of state gov-

ernment turning. There also is a deadline for property tax reduction, with the state due to begin losing one-half cent of its sales tax revenue on July 1 if some form of property tax relief, amounting to \$155 million, is not enacted.

Add to those two big items the usual major bill on providing state support for public school and there may not be much time left over for considering the 1,000 bills tossed into the hopper the last two days.

There's no deadline, of course, for adjournment of the legislature. However, most legislators seem to be pointing toward an ending by about July 1 and this means it probably will come about the same time it did last year, which was the first week in August.

Not too many years ago, all bills had to be introduced in January and this led to the practice of introducing "spot" bills—skeleton bills which later could be amended to carry out the intended purpose. The elongated bill introduction period—about three and a half months—was intended to eliminate the spot bills.

It's true that the number of spot bills has been reduced considerably, but there still were some to be found among the bills introduced just before the deadline.

ROYCE BRIER

Nasser's Legions Aching For Middle East Revenge

When President Nasser ordered his troop formations to mass on the Israeli border last May, it looked as if Israel could be over-run in a few days.

Nasser had at least a thousand tanks, largely made in Czechoslovakia, and several strategically placed airfields to provide cover for ground armor.

But the Israelis also had tanks and air capability, and they are a technical people who had trained assiduously for just this situation. At the critical moment their bombers streaked west to the sea, made a 180 degree turn, and bombed as they moved inland. Less than an hour after takeoff their waves had destroyed many Egyptian planes on their strips, and Egyptian tanks could not advance, but had to retreat. It became a rout of burning Egyptian armor on narrow desert roads

which were conspicuous in the air pictures.

As the belligerents were roughly matched in gear, this was a triumph of preparedness, organization, morale, and strategy. It enabled the Israelis within 48

Opinions on Affairs of the World

hours to deal with the Syrians and Jordanians and complete the Arab disaster.

Since the summer debacle, the Arab peoples have been burning for revenge, but they lack even a shadow of organization to mount such an enterprise. Recently President Nasser agreed to a call of King Hussein of Jordan for an Arab summit conference, which cannot possibly devise staff plans indispensable to any revenge.

The several Arab nations

cannot control their own people or their hare-brained impulses. A few months ago the Egyptians shelled an Israeli vessel, and paid for it with an Israeli air raid on Port Suez which wiped out three-fourths of their oil refining capacity. King Hussein cannot control his command and terrorist groups along the Jordan river frontier.

One of these mobs, known as el-Fatah, has been making commando raids into conquered Israeli territory west of the Jordan. The Jordanese do not recognize the conquest, but such Western cowboy shootouts are worse than useless, only alerting the Israelis to the Arab danger.

Not that they need alerting. They are at present invulnerable to any serious Arab incursions, and they tend to decisive reprisals, as in the oil refinery incident.

Recently they sent armor and 15,000 men into the east-of-Jordan region on the approaches to Amman, the capital. With no visible air resistance, they bombed and mopped up the el-Fatah bases. Jordanian army contingents fought bravely, and the Israelis lost a few tanks, but east-of-Jordan was subdued.

This is a senseless way to seek what the Arabs call justice, and Nasser and Hussein must know it. The Israeli military machine is as tight, cool and efficient as any existing in the world today. An Arab summit which will not face this hard reality, but depends on petty bursts of fury, can achieve nothing for its cause.

In the fracas each side lost a score of men. The United States, with 500 soldiers dead weekly in the Far East, sent notes to the Israelis and the Arabs exploring the violence in the Middle East.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Philip Wylie's An Angry, Aging Critic of Mankind

Remember "A Generation of Vipers"? It was a quarter of a century ago that Philip Wylie, a clever critic of American society, made waves with that sardonic survey of our national habits, beliefs and pretensions.

It was there that Wylie leveled his famous attack on "Momism," or the sentimentalizing of the idea of Mother in American society. Wylie said he meant this as a joke, but in wartime 1943 "Mom" was still very much a sacred cow and the resulting hurricane of protest that gathered about "A Generation of Vipers" made it a very big success indeed.

In subsequent works Wylie took on organized religion, the sexual ills of American society, and other tribal rites of the species. He never exhibited the rapier style of an H. L. Mencken, and exhibits even less in a new book of highly-charged social criticism, "The Magic Animal, or Mankind Revisited." In it, this angry aging man looks at the accumu-

lated prejudices of humankind, principally American, and flatly concludes: "Modern man is relatively the most ignorant example of his species ever to exist."

"The Magic Animal" is Wylie's angriest, most iconoclastic, most tiresome of his polemics I have read. He

Browsing Through the World of Books

sounds off at a fever pitch—with considerable erudition, granted, but with bombast rather than wit.

One must agree with much of what he says, yet disagree with the soapbox oratory in which he says it. That we are being "indoctrinated" rather than educated, for example; or that man is the only animal who can't handle the problems of overpopulation of his species.

Wylie, who judges the world by his own standards, takes his greatest glee in swinging a verbal bludgeon at our own, whatever they

may be. As I recall, "A Generation of Vipers" was a fresher, more delightful, less nervous and irritable display of professional iconoclasm. The sense of the ridiculousness about him, about all of us, that he seeks to emphasize, analyze and categorize in this book comes off neither as interesting anger or important criticism.

Modern art, in his view, has become "slop" art; theology and sociology (among other disciplines) are "hoaxes"; all so-called "Holy books" should be kept out of the hands of children; the young are "nuts," although he agrees they have been "systematically lied to" by adult U.S.A., on and on in what might have been titled "Son of a Generation of Vipers."

In short, if you ask Wylie what he thinks of the world today, he would answer, "Not much." But he takes 358 pages here to do so, and wears the reader in the process.

